



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

AUG 30 2007



The Honorable Harvey L. Hall
Mayor, City of Bakersfield
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93301

Dear Mr. Hall:

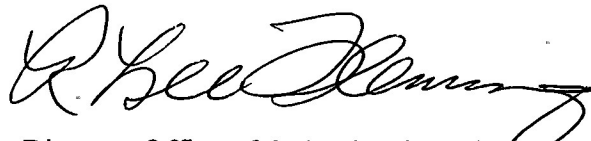
Thank you for your letter of August 16, 2007, to Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA) Carl Artman, regarding a group known as the Tejon Indian Tribe (Tejon, Petitioner #230). The Department of the Interior (Department) referred your letter to the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) for response.

OFA assists the Department in implementing the administrative process for acknowledging that a group continues to exist as an Indian tribe. This process is regulated under Part 83 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR Part 83), *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe* (copy enclosed). On October 27, 2000, the Department received a letter of intent from the Tejon group seeking to be acknowledged as an Indian tribe under 25 CFR Part 83, and designated the group as Petitioner #230.

In September 2006, Petitioner #230 made a presentation to the AS-IA, stated that it did not fall under the scope of 25 CFR Part 83, and requested that it be “confirmed” as an Indian tribe, or alternatively be recognized as a “Half-blood” Indian community pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act. In effect, the group is requesting that the Department place it on the list of federally recognized Indian tribes without it being required to go through a regulatory process.

For the AS-IA, OFA is reviewing the group’s claims, arguments, copies of documentation, and letters such as yours. OFA and the Department’s Office of the Solicitor will be making their recommendations to the AS-IA for his consideration, soon. We appreciate your interest in Indian affairs and timely input.

Sincerely,



Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Enclosure

cc: Petitioner #230

OFA

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TASKING PROFILE

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Addressee: Dirk Kempthorne

From: Hall, Harvey L.
Mayor

1501 Truxtun Ave
Bakersfield
California 933

Subject Text:

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CAllen

Corresp. Specialist Phone:
208-6540

Closed Comments:

Signed:

AUG 27 2007 COX

8/46



City of Bakersfield
California
Office of Mayor Harvey L. Hall



August 16, 2007

Honorable Carl J. Artman
Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
MS 4141-MIB
1849 C St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

023394

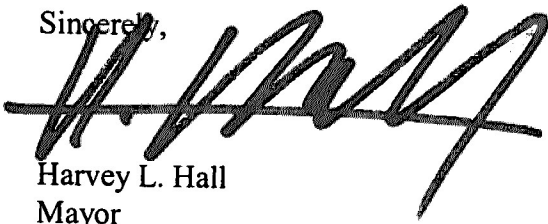
Dear Honorable Artman:

I am writing urging the Bureau of Indian Affairs to confirm the federally recognized status of the Tejon Indian Tribe. The Tejon Indian Tribe and their history are well-known to the residents of Kern County, partly because portions of Kern County comprise the tribe's native area. It is my understanding that the department has a long history of providing services to the Tejon Indian Tribe and held land for the benefit of them through the early 1960's. However, the Tribe is not presently included on the list of federally recognized tribes. As the mayor of Bakersfield, I am pleased to support the endorsement of the Tribe's federal recognition, whether that is accomplished through correction of the list of federally recognized tribes or pursuant to the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act.

This week I met with Ms. Kathryn Montes Morgan the elected chairperson of the Tejon Indian Tribe. She explained that federal confirmation would include placing land in Kern County into trust and declaring that land an Indian reservation. It is my understanding that this initial parcel near Mettler, California would be used for residential purposes and in the future the Tribe could seek to place additional land into trust for other purposes, including economic development.

Again, I respectfully request that the Department confirm without delay the Tribe's status either by correcting the list of federally recognized tribes to include the Tejon Tribe or by allowing the Tribe to organize in accordance to the Indian Reorganization Act. Thank you for your consideration to this most important concern. And, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Harvey L. Hall
Mayor

/ss

By fax: Heather Sibbison (202) 457-6315
cc: Kathryn Montes Morgan, Chairperson, Tejon Indian Tribe